

THE ASBESTOS HOME REMOVAL SYSTEM

30 June 2010

There is now widespread recognition of the serious health problems caused by exposure to asbestos. Not only is the use of asbestos now prohibited but there are prescriptive regulations in place governing its removal and disposal which requires the engagement of licensed contractors.

However, there are four major outstanding problems.

- There is a major source of asbestos in residential housing
- The regulatory requirements do not apply to the DIY renovator
- DIY renovators in Victoria do not have easy access to practical information and equipment required to do home renovations safely, nor can they
- Dispose of asbestos waste locally

To assist in providing practical solutions to these problems the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council Inc (GTLC) and Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Group (GARDS) have developed a comprehensive domestic asbestos handling and disposal system in the push to eradicate asbestos from the Gippsland Region. Together they embarked on a campaign that:

- Clarified the information, equipment and services needed by DIY renovators
- Reviewed the current information programs and disposal options available in Victoria
- Identified the lessons to be learned from other jurisdictions where they have already adopted a more proactive approach to the management of asbestos in the residential sector.

More importantly, this campaign resulted in a groundbreaking model for an asbestos information and disposal program for Victoria.

In March 2007, Mr Matt Viney MLC Member for Eastern Victoria launched the Asbestos in the Home Removal Kit in Latrobe City. Its availability was publicised through:

- articles in the local newspaper and the Latrobe Council's residents' newsletter
- Latrobe Council's customer service network and web page
- transfer station operators

The kits were made available for purchase and collection by home renovators at the Latrobe City Council offices in Morwell, at a cost equivalent to the tipping fee, ie. \$20. Residents were able to dispose of larger quantities of material by paying a further \$20 per cubic metre.

Prior to obtaining a kit, purchasers:

- attended an information session and viewed the DVD demonstrating the use of the kit at the Latrobe City Council offices in Morwell,
- registered their names and contact details with the Council, and
- consented to being contacted by telephone to participate in the evaluation of the kit.

During the trial period from March 2007 to March 2008, 98 kits were issued to householders in Latrobe City. Since its introduction, Latrobe City Council has issued over 400 kits to residents.

The GTLC and GARDS have now developed Charter of Better Practice and a Mobile Receiver Unit.



Most local councils do not have a policy for the safe removal and disposal of domestic asbestos. We are now calling on all Councils in Gippsland to follow the model we have instigated and sign the Charter of Best Practice to protect their residents.

Anything less will not be accepted.

For more information regarding the removal of domestic asbestos or the Asbestos in the Home Removal Kit go to:

www.gards.org/removalkit
or contact GARDS on 03 51 27 7744
or GTLC on 03 51 33 7684



SUPPORTING WORKERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Develop Your Career

JOBSKILLS *Expo*

Tuesday 27th July

Lardner Park

Warragul

9.00am - 2.30pm

The JobSkills Expo is a hands on Expo attracting employment agencies, peak bodies, training and community organisations in Latrobe City, West Gippsland, South Gippsland and Bass Coast regions.

It will engage people with "hands on" activities, advice and information about the various skills, jobs, pathways and industries that make up our regional workforce.

As well as static displays the JobSkills Expo will have a range of short seminars providing practical information and advice.

Information will be available on:

- Workplace Rights and Responsibilities
- Industry Super Funds
- Unions
- WorkSafe Victoria

Plus more

The JobSkills Expo is also attended by almost 3,000 Secondary School students

For further information contact:

Val at GTLC on (03) 5133-7684

Email: gvlc@wideband.net.au



Supporting Workers & Their Communities



Gambler's Help Gippsland



Gambler's Help Gippsland has launched a new resource kit to spread the word about responsible gambling and raise awareness of the services offered by Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) relating to problem gambling.

Ann Briggs, Manager of Counselling Services at LCHS explained that the resource kit is an important tool to engage with the general community as well as more targeted groups that are sometimes difficult to reach.

"One exciting initiative is the partnership between Gambler's Help Gippsland and the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council," said Ms Briggs. "A key part of this partnership has been to create a joint poster to help us reach those working in an industry or trade."

Research has shown that gambling is a significant issue for workers in building and construction, due to factors including the influence of workmates and the increasing availability of gambling opportunities across the Gippsland region.

"For the first time, Gambler's Help Gippsland has large range of resources to support the work carried out by Gambler's Help staff," said Ms Briggs.

"By having these resources out in the community, we are hoping that people will take note of our services and contact details and contact us when the time is right for them."

Gambler's Help Gippsland provides a wide range of confidential services to gamblers, their families and others affected by gambling including staff from gaming venues.

These services range from financial and general counselling, community education, professional development and secondary consultation, all are available across Gippsland.

For further information on Gambler's Help Gippsland, please contact Stephanie Cohen at LCHS on 1800 242 696.

DON'T RISK 2ND RATE SAFETY

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO GO TO WORK AND COME HOME SAFELY

The Bush Telegraph is a fortnightly electronic publication.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REACH OUR NETWORK BY ADVERTISING IN THE BUSH TELEGRAPH??

RING VAL ON 5133 6784

2010 Diary

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| 7 July | Women's Action Coalition Lunch with Geelong Trades Hall. 12pm, at the GTLC Office.
RSVP: gvlc@wideband.com.au |
| 13 July | Womens Action Coalition Meeting, 4pm at GTLC office. |
| 13 July | GTLC General Meeting
5.30pm at the GTLC office. |
| 27 July | JobSkills Expo,
9.30am - 2.30pm.
Lardner Park,
Warragul. |



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|--------------|----------------------------|
| 10 August | GTLC General Meeting |
| 14 September | GTLC General Meeting & AGM |
| 12 October | GTLC General Meeting |
| 9 November | GTLC General Meeting |
| 14 December | Christmas Break Up |



COMMUNITY LINK

Getting the message out



G.A.R.D.S.

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.

Provides support & information to asbestos sufferers, their families & carers.

41 Monash Road, Newborough, Vic. 3825

Phone: 5126 0354

Fax: 5126 0354

Email: info@gards.org

Web: www.gards.org

Call in for a chat and a cuppa



Community Grants

Community groups and 'not for profit organisations' in Latrobe City are invited to attend a FREE information forum on Community Grants to be held on Wednesday 7 July 2010.

For more information contact Teresa Puliese on 5128 5712
RSVP Teresa Puliese

before Wednesday 30 June 2010 on

Tel: 5128 5712 or email: teresa.pugliese@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Women's Action Coalition

The Women's Action Coalition (WAC) is a sub-committee of the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council.

Its purpose is to provide a forum for issues related to women.

WAC will address these issues through political and social activism and working cooperatively with both men and women.

Membership is free and open to all women and women's groups in the Gippsland region.

For further information contact Val Prokopiv on 5133 7684

VICTORIAN TRADES HALL COUNCIL

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE

Have scheduled a

1-day refresher course

for Health and Safety Representatives
at Morwell

Venue: ETU

42 Buckley Street, Morwell

Telephone: 5134 3847

7 July 2010

All enquires can be directed to the VTHC
Occupational Health & Safety Training Centre.

Telephone: 96593511

96635460

Fax: 9639 0408

If you would like assistance in getting your message out, just give us your details and we will endeavour to help

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Gippsland Trades & Labour Council Inc

Tel: 03 5133 7684

Fax: 03 5133 3313

PO Box 240, Morwell

Email: gvlc@wideband.net.au

Website: gippslandtlc.com.au

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